

**TOWN OF WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

SECTION: Alarm and Response Guidelines
SUBJECT: Protective Clothing
REVISED: 7/2013

PURPOSE:

To provide policy and guidelines relative to the proper personal protection, in the form of protective clothing to all fire department members exposed to dangerous situations and hazardous atmospheres and/or environments.

POLICY:

- A. Fire Department members shall utilize and wear protective clothing and safety gear as prescribed by these guidelines contained herein.
- B. Use of protective clothing is defined and prescribed within this policy shall be considered mandatory during emergency operations and/or whenever the chance or risk of personal injury to fire department members may exist.
- C. The Fire Department shall provide its members with the proper type of approved protective clothing which meets or exceeds NFPA standards, and is currently available in the safety clothing market. And protects to the level of their membership.
- D. All protective clothing shall be inspected annually and after every use.

RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. Fire chiefs, and safety officer have the overall responsibility to insure the members abide by the fire departments guidelines regarding the use of protective clothing.
- B. All fire department members are directly responsible for their personal safety, and shall utilize proper protective clothing as prescribed within this guideline.

DEFENITIONS:

All fire department personnel shall wear and utilize full protective clothing as defined herein:

- 1. Helmet
- 2. Gloves
- 3. Turnout coat
- 4. Turnout pant
- 5. Nomex/carbon hood
- 6. Bunker boot
- 7. Extrication suit (if issued)
- 8. Wildland suit (if issued)
- 9. Safety vest

GENERAL PROCEDURES:

- A. Emergency Operations:

1. Personnel actively engaged in fire fighting shall wear full protective clothing (except with brush fire fighting). Any person without proper clothing shall not enter the fire building or engage themselves in activities in the immediate area.
 2. All members shall wear and utilize appropriate clothing during emergency operations including wearing safety vests.
- B. During Priority One Responses:
1. Members responding in or on fire apparatus shall wear their protective clothing except their helmets that will be secured in appropriate devices or in compartments.
 2. Drivers are not required to wear their protective clothing while driving. Once arriving on the scene, drivers must put on their protective clothing.
 3. Those members responding to calls in their personal vehicles will have their protective clothing on before entering the scene.
 4. If, during a response to a call, an unusual condition or hazard presents itself, the Incident Commander may at his or her discretion order all personnel, including drivers into any level of protective clothing which may be necessary to protect said personnel from injury or death.
- C. Training:
1. Members engaged in training sessions are responsible to insure that adequate protective clothing is utilized properly by all personnel involved. Full protective clothing shall be worn during simulated hazardous environments.
 2. Officers or members conducting training sessions are responsible to insure that adequate protective clothing is utilized properly by all personnel involved.
 3. When doing drivers training, the protective clothing to be worn by those participating in the exercise shall be at the discretion of the training officer.
- D. During Hose Testing:
1. When working around charged hose that is being tested, all personnel shall wear bunker pants, boots, gloves, and helmet.
- E. Maintenance:
1. All protective clothing such as turnout clothing, helmets, boots, gloves shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer instructions.
 2. All personnel will clean their protective clothing on a regular basis.
 3. All helmets are required to have all designations and safety strips as required by the chief's
- F. Fire Police Duties:
1. Members operating as Fire Police will wear reflective clothing which meets NFPA standards for fire police protective clothing, or shall wear full protective clothing including safety vests.